



Attorney's Docket No. 000500-196

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Eva SIMMONS et al.

Application No.: 09/380,208

Filed: November 8, 1999

For: AN ABSORBENT ARTICLE THAT
INCLUDES A LIQUID BARRIER
WITH IMPROVED SEALING

Group Art Unit: 3761

Examiner: M. KIDWELL

Confirmation No.: 2331

RECEIVED
DEC 26 2002
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

Submission Under 37 C.F.R. 1.114/Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In complete response to the Office Action dated June 20, 2002, please first amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

c1
A method of improving in an oblong absorbent article that includes a liquid-impermeable bottom sheet, an upper liquid-permeable sheet and an absorbent body disposed between these sheets, and on each side of the longitudinal center line of the upper sheet at least one longitudinal elastic liquid barrier, the sealing effect afforded against the skin of the wearer by at least one liquid barrier on each side of said centre line by causing the absolute value of the negative produce $2\gamma \cos\theta m/r$ in this liquid barrier to increase.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 37 and 40 with the following:

c2
37. (Amended) The article according to Claim 29, wherein, when the article is donned, said free elastic sealing edge has a pore radius which is essentially independent of the available elongation or stretch and which is at most 0.10 mm.

c3
40. (Amended) The article according to Claim 29, wherein said free elastic sealing edge is comprised of a ribbon-like elastic film.